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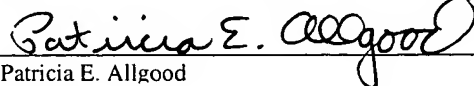
In re patent application:)	
)	
Simonton et al.)	Before the Examiner
)	
Serial No. New Application)	Unknown
)	
Filed Herewith)	
)	
SYSTEMS AND TECHNIQUES FOR)	Atty Docket No. 4002-3462/PC746.00
RESTORING AND MAINTAINING)	
INTERVERTEBRAL ANATOMY)	January 28, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

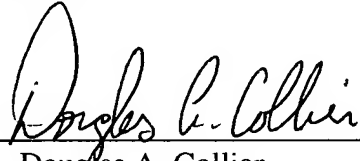
Pursuant to the duty of disclosure embodied in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 1.98,
Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Examiner the items of information listed
on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant. This information has
not been previously submitted in this application, and has not been heretofore cited by the
examiner. Copies of cited items have not been provided since each were cited in parent
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/274,856 filed on October 21, 2002.

Express Mail Label No. <u>EV 394 105734 US</u> Date of Deposit January 28, 2004 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.  Patricia E. Allgood

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, prior art or material to the patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

This Statement is being submitted with the filing of the application and before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, it is believed that no fee is required for consideration of the submitted items. Should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	New Application
				Filing Date	Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Simonton
				Group Art Unit	3738
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	5	Attorney Docket Number	4002-3642/PC947.00

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (If known)			
	1	US-4,349,921	09/21/1982	Kuntz	
	2	US-4,566,466	01/28/1986	Ripple et al.	
	3	US-4,743,256	05/10/1988	Brantigan	
	4	US-4,834,757	05/30/1989	Brantigan	
	5	US-4,878,915	11/07/1989	Brantigan	
	6	US-4,950,296	08/21/1990	McIntyre	
	7	US-5,192,327	03/09/1993	Brantigan	
	8	US-5,425,772	06/20/1995	Brantigan	
	9	US-5,443,514	08/22/1995	Steffee	
	10	US-5,522,899	06/04/1996	Michelson	
	11	US-5,607,424	03/04/1997	Tropiano	
	12	US-5,609,635	03/11/1997	Michelson	
	13	US-5,645,596	07/08/1997	Kim et al.	
	14	US-5,716,415	02/10/1998	Steffee	
	15	US-5,766,252	06/16/1998	Henry et al.	
	16	US-5,776,199	07/07/1998	Michelson	
	17	US-5,797,909	08/25/1998	Michelson	
	18	US-5,865,845	02/02/1999	Thalgott	

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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				First Named Inventor	Simonton
				Group Art Unit	3738
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				Attorney Docket Number	4002-2989/PC746.00

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		Number-Kind Code ² (If known)			
	19	US-5,888,224	03/30/1999	Beckers et al.	
	20	US-5,888,226	03/30/1999	Rogozinski	
	21	US-5,895,426	04/20/1999	Scarborough et al.	
	22	US-5,899,939	05/04/1999	Boyce et al.	
	23	US-5,984,922	11/16/1999	McKay	
	24	US-6,025,538	02/15/2000	Yaccarino, III	
	25	US-6,045,580	04/04/2000	Scarborough et al.	
	26	US-6,059,829	05/09/2000	Schlapfer et al.	
	27	US-6,096,038	08/01/2000	Michelson	
	28	US-6,111,164	08/29/2000	Rainey et al.	
	29	US-6,113,639	09/05/2000	Ray et al.	
	30	US-6,123,705	09/26/2000	Michelson	
	31	US-6,123,731	09/26/2000	Boyce et al.	
	32	US-6,143,033	11/07/2000	Paul et al.	
	33	US-6,146,422	11/14/2000	Lawson	
	34	US-6,159,215	12/12/2000	Urbahns et al.	
	35	US-6,200,347 B1	03/13/2001	Anderson et al.	
	36	US-6,210,412 B1	04/03/2001	Michelson	

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		Group Art Unit	3738
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Sheet	3	of	5
		Attorney Docket Number	4002-2989/PC746.00

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	37	US-6,241,771 B1	06/05/2001	Gresser et al.	
	38	US-6,245,108 B1	06/12/2001	Biscup	
	39	US-6,258,125 B1	07/10/2001	Paul et al.	
	40	US-6,264,656 B1	07/24/2001	Michelson	
	41	US-6,277,149 B1	08/21/2001	Boyle et al.	
	42	US-6,290,724 B1	09/18/2001	Marino	
	43	US-6,302,914 B1	10/16/2001	Michelson	
	44	US-6,315,795 B1	11/13/2001	Scarborough et al.	
	45	US-6,319,257 B1	11/20/2001	Carignan et al.	
	46	US-6,383,221 B1	05/07/2002	Scarborough et al.	
	47	US-6,425,920 B1	07/30/2002	Hamada	
	48	US-6,436,102 B1	08/20/2002	Ralph et al.	
	49	US-6,443,987 B1	09/03/2002	Bryan	
	50	US-6,447,547 B1	09/10/2002	Michelson	
	51	US-6,458,158 B1	10/01/2002	Anderson et al.	
	52	US-6,468,276 B1	10/22/2002	McKay	
	53	US-6,478,801 B1	11/12/2002	Ralph et al.	
	54	US-6,482,233 B1	11/19/2002	Aebi et al.	

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
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Sheet	4	of	5		

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	55	US-6,500,206 B1	12/31/2002	Bryan	
	56	US-6,530,955 B2	03/11/2003	Boyle et al.	
	57	US-6,554,863 B2	04/29/2003	Paul et al.	
	58	US-6,562,047 B2	05/13/2003	Ralph et al.	
	59	US-6,569,168 B2	05/27/2003	Lin	
	60	US-6,626,905 B1	09/30/2003	Schmiel et al.	
	61	US-2001/0020170 A1	09/06/2001	Zucherman et al.	
	62	US-2002/0016633 A1	02/07/2002	Lin et al.	
	63	US-2002/0058950 A1	05/16/2002	Winterbottom et al.	
	64	US-2002/0065558 A1	05/30/2002	Varga et al.	
	65	US-2002/0161366 A1	10/31/2002	Robie et al.	
	66	US-2003/0139814 A1	07/24/2003	Bryan	
	67	US-2003/0014057 A1	01/16/2003	Ralph et al.	
	68	US-2003/0014114 A1	01/16/2003	Ralph et al.	
	69	US-2003/0014115 A1	01/16/2003	Ralph et al.	
	70	US-2003/0023245 A1	01/30/2003	Ralph et al.	
	71	US-2003/0023309 A1	01/30/2003	Ralph et al.	
	72	US-2003/0149438 A1	08/07/2003	Nichols et al.	

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